

ADEQ **Meeting Minutes**

Arizona Department
of Environmental Quality

Cooper and Commerce Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site Community Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 22, 2007

5:30 PM

**Southeast Regional Library, Conf. Room A
775 North Greenfield Road
Gilbert, Arizona**

DRAFT MINUTES

Ref: PIOUS #07-141

CAB members present: Pacer Udall, Michael Evans, Bobbi Buchli, Carrie Lewis

CAB Members absent: Mehdi Zebian, Charles Caldwell, Deanna Gnadt, Joe Maniga, Bruce Friedrich

ADEQ Staff in attendance: Scott Goodwin, Project Manager; Wendy Flood, Community Involvement Coordinator; Frank Bell, Community Involvement Coordinator

Members of the public present: Mr. Bruce Travers and Mrs. Nancy Mangone (Attorney for Town of Gilbert)

The following matters were discussed, considered, or decided at the meeting:

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Mr. Frank Bell opened up the meeting by introducing himself as the new Community Involvement Coordinator and began the introductions. All participants present introduced themselves as well.

2. Acceptance and/or Changes to the Minutes from the 11/16/06 and 2/10/07 meetings:

No quorum was present, so this item was postponed.

3. Site Visit Follow Up:

Mr. Bell summarized the site visit activities. Mr. Lonnie Frost was present at the site visit and performed a tour of the water treatment plant after the visit.

Mr. Evans asked Ms. Lewis about the status of the property acquisition. Ms. Lewis stated they (Skyline Steel) have only acquired lien rights. Skyline Steel Co. is in line to purchase the property. Mr. Evans asked about the current ownership, and Mr. Goodwin explained what is known about the current owners is they are not responding to contact, not taking responsibility and not paying the lien. The current owners on file are Simon US which are a subsidiary of Simon U.K. Mr. Evans commented the tour was beneficial.

4. **2005-2006 Groundwater Flow Directions, Proposed Well Installation Update and Site activities:**

A slide presentation was given by Mr. Scott Goodwin, Project Manager. Mr. Goodwin presented slides with maps and informational updates about the activities at the site. Since March 2005, groundwater flow direction has been northwest or west. Mr. Goodwin commented there is a water table difference between the aquifers of about 30 to 40 feet. Plume boundaries are still undefined. Mr. Goodwin explained the factors dealing with varying groundwater flow and how it effects the contamination.

Mr. Evans asked what changes flow rate. Mr. Goodwin responded that if there is more recharge and or pumping at other wells in the area.

Mr. Goodwin continued by showing a plume map from Dec. 2006. Four monitoring wells will be drilled in the coming months: two wells in the Town of Gilbert right-of-ways west and northwest of the site in Sonesta Estates subdivision; one well in the Town of Gilbert right-of-way northeast of site; and one well will be located northwest of the site on the Salt River Project property in the vicinity of the Town of Gilbert Well #15. Mr. Goodwin also stated that Mr. Jerry Newitt, President of the Sonesta Estates, was contacted and informed about tonight's meeting and future drilling in his area. Well drilling flyers will be sent out to residents that are closely affected by the noise a week before drilling in the area is to begin.

Ms. Buchli asked about the time frame for the drilling. Mr. Goodwin stated it would be roughly before June 30th. She also asked what information was to come of these wells. Mr. Goodwin responded that he should have the data by the end of June; and hopefully he will have sampled the area. Mr. Goodwin also explained the reasons for picking the locations of the new wells.

Mr. Udall asked if there are plans for installing more wells in the area as flow moves west. Mr. Goodwin stated he is still working on that possibility. Mr. Evans inquired about the location of the well in the neighborhood and why ADEQ would drill in the neighborhood instead of behind the neighborhood on the open lot. Mr. Goodwin stated access is easier through the Town of Gilbert's right-of way. Mr. Evans asked about Mr. Newitt's response. Mr. Goodwin stated he was fine with the drilling and wanted ADEQ to attend a neighborhood meeting to meet with the group. Mr. Evans and Mr. Udall stated they could/are willing to attend the meeting. Mrs. Flood stated that since there was not a quorum present, such an action by the Co-Chairs on behalf of the CAB needs to be voted on. The CAB members want to be proactive about informing the community so they decided to have another CAB meeting before the drilling begins.

Mr. Goodwin continued stating that site status action issues are still unresolved. The Town of Gilbert issued an abatement order to Unikem. Mrs. Nancy Mangone, Town of Gilbert Attorney, gave a brief history on Simon International Inc. and Unikem and what information or lack of information has been received. In 1990, they sold off all assets of Unikem (Simon New Mexico or Simon UK) for 19 million dollars except for five pieces of property (the Gilbert site being one of them) with potential environmental hazards. Ms. Magone reported that the County Assessors Records show the title owner is still Unikem International Inc.

Ms. Magone continued that the Town of Gilbert issued an order under the Town's Code. It has been determined that there is an environmental emergency at the site that needs to be remediated. This determination allows for action to be taken deemed appropriate at that particular property.

The town attorneys are working with ADEQ on some understanding or mutual aid agreement. Together both parties can use their authority and resources to get the clean up underway.

Ms. Buchli asked how long the clean up will have to wait. Mr. Goodwin said there would be no waiting since the property was declared an emergency and the order stated when responses had to be received. Ms. Magone offered to provide copies of the order to the CAB. Ms. Buchli asked that the order be put in the repository as well.

5. Distribution of Signed Charter:

Mrs. Flood handed out the signed charter. The charter will be mailed to absent CAB members and placed in the repository.

6. Call to the Public:

None

7. Next Meeting and Agenda Discussion:

Further discussion was held about the attendance of the co-chairs at the neighborhood meeting. The CAB decided to have the next meeting on April 17, 2007 at the Freestone Recreation Center, 1141 E. Guadalupe Rd. at 5:30 pm. Topics to be included are: CAB Outreach Opportunities, Attendance, and CAB membership. The CAB members were encouraged to call the absent members to emphasize the importance of attending the meeting.

8. Adjournment